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HOUSE MEMORIAL 114

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Debbie A. Rodella

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GAMING CONTROL BOARD TO ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS LICENSED TO OFFER BINGO OR RAFFLES PURSUANT TO THE BINGO AND RAFFLE ACT TO REVIEW RULES THAT IMPEDE THOSE ORGANIZATIONS FROM OPERATING PROFITABLE BINGO GAMES AND DEVELOP RULES THAT ALLOW THOSE ORGANIZATIONS TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE SUCCESSFULLY.

WHEREAS, churches and other religious organizations have offered bingo and raffles to parishioners and members for many years; and

WHEREAS, with the expansion of gaming in New Mexico, many small bingo games have lost their participants to other venues for gaming or bingo; and

WHEREAS, many churches and religious organizations rely on the funds generated by bingo games, and many older people view

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1 bingo at their church or church auxiliary as an important
2 social activity; and

3 WHEREAS, many parishioners and members of churches or
4 religious organizations enjoy playing bingo in a familiar
5 location surrounded by friends and other people familiar to
6 them; and

7 WHEREAS, bingo is an important social activity for many
8 people, including many elderly people; and

9 WHEREAS, the regulation of the Bingo and Raffle Act was
10 relocated in 2005 from the regulation and licensing department
11 to the gaming control board to consolidate the regulation of
12 gaming in one agency and to provide greater oversight of the
13 organizations that are licensed pursuant to the Bingo and
14 Raffle Act; and

15 WHEREAS, the new regulatory system has made it more
16 difficult for some small bingo operations to remain viable;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
18 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the gaming
19 control board be requested to initiate and engage in
20 discussions with churches or other religious organizations that
21 are licensed to conduct bingo games pursuant to the Bingo and
22 Raffle Act, to review rules that impede those organizations
23 from operating profitable bingo games and to develop rules that
24 allow those organizations to continue to operate successfully;
25 and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the gaming control board.